

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Plural first exhaust pipes are disposed as exhaust paths at an upper portion of a heat treatment apparatus. Exhaust  
5 gases are discharged from the inside of the heat treatment apparatus to the respective exhaust pipes. Inlets of catalyst units are connected to outlets of the first exhaust pipes, and second exhaust pipes are connected to outlets of  
the catalyst units. Exhaust gases are discharged from  
10 exhaust ports of the second exhaust pipes to the outside (e.g., the atmosphere) of the heat treatment apparatus.